

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

BLACK BORDERS

- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.**



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification: H01R 13/53, H01R 13/66	A1	(11) International Publication Number: (43) International Publication Date:	WO 00/59076 05 October 2000 (05.10.2000)
---	----	--	---

(21) International Application Number: (22) International Filing Date:	PCT/GB00/01146 24 March 2000 (24.03.2000)	Published
(30) Priority Data: 9906956.9	25 March 1999 (25.03.1999) GB	
(60) Parent Application or Grant	NOR.WEB DPI, LIMITED [/]; (.) BROWN, Paul, Anthony [/]; (.) DICKINSON, John [/]; (.) BROWN, Paul, Anthony [/]; (.) DICKINSON, John [/]; (.) HACKNEY, Nigel, J. ; (.)	

(54) Title: SIGNAL COUPLER
(54) Titre: COUPLEUR DE SIGNAUX

(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to apparatus for coupling communications equipment to a conductor or cable. In particular, it relates to an "elbow" or "T" shaped type coupler. The present invention aims to provide a method and apparatus for effectively coupling communication signals onto and off an existing, possibly energised, distribution or transmission network. In a first aspect, the present invention provides a coupler including a pin (1, 20) for electrical connection to a socket, high pass filter means (5) electrically connected to the pin and connection means (7) for connecting the high pass filter means to a signal source. Preferably the pin (1, 20) is adapted or arranged so as to be suitable for connection to a socket (e.g. a primary terminal) of a transformer. In this way, a high frequency communication signal coupling may be made to the primary winding of the transformer without any need to interrupt the operation of the transformer or the power supply to consumers. Furthermore, the installation of the connection is safe and easy to do, which as will be appreciated, is important in high voltage equipment.

(57) Abrégé

L'invention concerne un appareil destiné à coupler un équipement de communications à un conducteur ou un câble. Notamment, cette invention concerne un coupleur en forme de "coude" ou de "T", et a pour objectif de présenter un procédé et un appareil destinés à coupler de manière efficace des signaux de communication à un réseau de transmission ou de distribution existant, éventuellement excité, et à les déconnecter dudit réseau. Selon un premier aspect, cette invention a trait à un coupleur comprenant une broche (1, 20) à connecter électriquement à une douille, un dispositif de filtrage passe-haut (5) connecté électriquement à la broche, et un dispositif de connexion (7) permettant de connecter le dispositif de filtrage passe-haut à la source de signaux. De préférence, la broche (1, 20) est conçue ou disposée de manière à être adaptée à la connexion à une douille (par ex., un terminal primaire) d'un transformateur. Ainsi, on peut effectuer un couplage de signaux de communication de haute fréquence à un bobinage primaire du transformateur, sans avoir besoin d'interrompre le fonctionnement du transformateur ou l'alimentation en courant des consommateurs. En outre, l'installation de la connexion est sûre et facile à faire, ce qui est appréciable, d'autant plus qu'elle est importante dans les équipements à haute tension.

PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ :		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/59076
H01R 13/53, 13/66			(43) International Publication Date: 5 October 2000 (05.10.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB00/01146		(81) Designated States: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).	
(22) International Filing Date: 24 March 2000 (24.03.00)		Published With international search report.	
(30) Priority Data: 9906956.9 25 March 1999 (25.03.99) GB			
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): NORWEB DPL LIMITED [GB/GB]; Regus Building, 268 Bath Road, Slough SL1 4DX (GB).			
(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): BROWN, Paul, Anthony [GB/GB]; 30 Applerigg, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 6EA (GB). DICKINSON, John [GB/GB]; 47 Brooklands Road, Burnley, Lancashire BB11 3PR (GB).			
(74) Agents: HACKNEY, Nigel, J. et al.; Mewburn Ellis, York House, 23 Kingsway, London WC2B 6HP (GB).			
(54) Title: SIGNAL COUPLER			
(57) Abstract			
<p>The present invention relates to apparatus for coupling communications equipment to a conductor or cable. In particular, it relates to an "elbow" or "I" shaped type coupler. The present invention aims to provide a method and apparatus for effectively coupling communication signals onto and off an existing, possibly energised, distribution or transmission network. In a first aspect, the present invention provides a coupler including a pin (1, 20) for electrical connection to a socket, high pass filter means (5) electrically connected to the pin and connection means (7) for connecting the high pass filter means to a signal source. Preferably the pin (1, 20) is adapted or arranged so as to be suitable for connection to a socket (e.g. a primary terminal) of a transformer. In this way, a high frequency communication signal coupling may be made to the primary winding of the transformer without any need to interrupt the operation of the transformer or the power supply to consumers. Furthermore, the installation of the connection is safe and easy to do, which as will be appreciated, is important in high voltage equipment.</p>			

FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AL	Albania	ES	Spain	LS	Lesotho	SI	Slovenia
AM	Armenia	FI	Finland	LT	Lithuania	SK	Slovakia
AT	Austria	FR	France	LU	Luxembourg	SN	Senegal
AU	Australia	GA	Gabon	LV	Larvia	SZ	Swaziland
AZ	Azerbaijan	GB	United Kingdom	MC	Monaco	TD	Chad
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	GE	Georgia	MD	Republic of Moldova	TG	Togo
BB	Barbados	GH	Ghana	MG	Madagascar	TJ	Tajikistan
BE	Belgium	GN	Guinea	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	TM	Turkmenistan
BF	Burkina Faso	GR	Greece	ML	Mali	TR	Turkey
BG	Bulgaria	HU	Hungary	MN	Mongolia	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BJ	Benin	IE	Ireland	MR	Mauritania	UA	Ukraine
BR	Brazil	IL	Israel	MW	Malawi	UG	Uganda
BY	Belarus	IS	Iceland	MX	Mexico	US	United States of America
CA	Canada	IT	Italy	NE	Niger	UZ	Uzbekistan
CF	Central African Republic	JP	Japan	NL	Netherlands	VN	Viet Nam
CG	Congo	KP	Kenya	NO	Norway	YU	Yugoslavia
CH	Switzerland	KG	Kyrgyzstan	NZ	New Zealand	ZW	Zimbabwe
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	PL	Poland		
CM	Cameroon	KR	Republic of Korea	PT	Portugal		
CN	China	KZ	Kazakhstan	RO	Romania		
CU	Cuba	LC	Saint Lucia	RU	Russian Federation		
CZ	Czech Republic	LI	Liechtenstein	SD	Sudan		
DE	Germany	LK	Sri Lanka	SE	Sweden		
DK	Denmark	LR	Liberta	SG	Singapore		
EE	Estonia						

Description

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

5

1

SIGNAL COUPLER

10

The present invention relates to apparatus for coupling communications equipment to a conductor or cable. In particular, it relates to an "elbow" or "T" shaped type coupler.

20

Varicus published patent applications of the present applicant disclose systems whereby telecommunications signals can be conveyed along an electricity distribution and/or transmission network. These applications include the following: WO94/09572, WO95/29536, WO95/29537, WO96/07245, WO98/19398, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

30

In order to safely, efficiently and cost effectively couple communication signals onto power distribution and/or transmission networks it becomes desirable to consider not only the interconnecting device itself, and its component parts (e.g. a high pass filter), but also the ease with which such a device might be retro-fitted

45

to an existing energised power distribution and/or transmission network. This becomes a more complex issue as the distribution and/or transmission network voltage

55

5

2

10

increases. Furthermore, the actual location of such interface devices requires to be carefully considered in order to permit other associated functions, such as transformer by-pass, to be safely and cost effectively implemented as necessary.

15

20

In some electricity distribution/transmission networks it is desirable to provide a communications signal bypass path so that the communication signal can be routed around the transformer, as a transformer may act as an attenuator for high frequency signals.

30

35

40

45

50

In, for example, the USA it is common for pad (ground) mounted transformers to be used in electricity distribution and transmission networks. The primary windings of such transformers are often connected in a ring and, for this purpose, each transformer is usually provided with two primary winding connection terminals or sockets - in figure 4 these are labelled H1a and H1b. The intention is that a high voltage cable may be connected to, for example, terminal H1a and then if a further connection onto another pad mount transformer is required, such connection can be made via a further lead connected to terminal H1b. Obviously if no further connection is required then nothing will be connected to

55

5

3

terminal H1b.

10

The high voltage connections to terminals H1a and H1b are usually made by means of an elbow connector, as shown in

15

5 figure 6. The connector consists of a resin filled elbow shaped package 60 protruding from one end of which is a probe or pin 62. This probe 62 locates inside socket H1a (for example) when connected to a transformer. Probe 62 is electrically connected via a connection 64 to a 10 terminal 66. Terminal 66 is connected to a high voltage 20 cable or conductor when in use.

25

30

The present invention aims to provide a method and 30 apparatus for effectively coupling communication signals 15 onto and off an existing, possibly energised, distribution or transmission network.

35

40

45

50

Accordingly, in a first aspect, the present invention provides a coupler including a pin for electrical 40 connection to a socket, high pass filter means 20 electrically connected to the pin and connection means for connecting the high pass filter means to a signal 45 source. Preferably the pin is adapted or arranged so as to be suitable for connection to a socket (e.g. a primary 25 terminal) of a transformer.

55

5

4

10

Such a connector is suitable for use in situations where, for example, terminal H1b as described above is not otherwise in use. In this way, a high frequency communication signal coupling may be made to the primary winding of the transformer without any need to interrupt the operation of the transformer or the power supply to consumers. Furthermore, the installation of the connection is safe and easy to do, which as will be appreciated, is important in high voltage equipment.

15

20

10

However, as was explained above, the terminal H1b (for example) may not always be free and will not be free if a number of transformers have been connected in a ring or a line.

30

15

35

40

45

20

Accordingly, in a second aspect, the present invention provides a coupler including: a pin for electrical connection to a socket, a second socket electrically connected to the pin and being adapted for receipt of a second pin of a further (e.g. high/medium voltage, low frequency) connector, high pass filter means electrically connected to the pin and connection means connected to the high pass filter means for receipt of a signal from a signal source.

50

25

55

5

5

In this way, the connector may be formed in a "T" shaped package and can be interposed between a regular low voltage connector (e.g. an elbow shaped connector as shown in figure 6) and the input socket of, for example, 10 a transformer. Again, this allows the coupling of 15 communications equipment to the low voltage line in a safe and efficient manner. In particular, if a number of 20 transformers are connected in a ring as described above, then this allows one of the connectors (e.g. attached to 10 terminal H1b as described above) to be disconnected 25 without any interruption to the consumers' electricity supply and for the "T" shaped connector then to be connected safely.

30

35

40

45

50

15 Preferably the coupler of either of the above aspects is arranged in a standard "elbow" or "T" shaped 35 configuration so as to fit standard sockets on transformers. Preferably the coupler also includes a fuse which may be located between the high pass filter 20 means and the pin. The high pass filter means may be provided by a capacitor and also included may be a protective balun and/or isolation transformer. The whole 45 connector package may be filled with a suitable insulative resin and/or oil or other suitable insulative 25 medium, preferably with adequate stress relief

55

5

6

capabilities.

10

In a further aspect, the present invention provides a method of coupling a communication signal to an electricity network and/or bypassing a transformer of the network using the apparatus as described above. A signal cable may be coupled to the signal source connector of the coupler which in turn may be connected to an amplifier and/or signal regenerator (could be analogue or digital) and/or modem device, and/or remodulator. This in turn may be connected to a further low voltage coupler which is then connected to one or more of the terminals of the secondary of the transformer.

30

35

15 Embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

40

20 Figure 1 shows a coupler according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

45

Figure 2 shows a coupler according to a second embodiment of the present invention.

50

25 Figure 3 is a schematic circuit diagram of the coupler

55

5

7

according to an embodiment of the present invention.

10

Figure 4 shows a typical pad mount transformer with
couplers according to embodiments of the present
invention being used.

15

Figure 5 is a schematic diagram of a bypass system for a
transformer according to an embodiment of the present
invention.

10

Figure 6 is a schematic diagram of a prior art low
voltage coupler.

30

Figure 1 shows a coupler according to the first
embodiment of the present invention. The coupler is
included in a typical elbow connector profile package
such as might be obtained from Elastimold (TM), for
example their 160 series. Such connectors are utilised,
particularly in the USA, to connect underground single
phase medium voltage (e.g. 13.8kv) distributor cables to
the primary connections of a pad mount transformer such
as that shown in figure 4.

45

The coupler includes a medium voltage probe 1 encased in
a housing 3 which has been filled with an insulative

50

55

5

8

10 resin 2 and/or stress relieving rubber. The probe 1 is connected to a fuse 4 which in turn is connected to a medium voltage capacitor (e.g. 0.01 microfarads) which acts as a high pass filter for the communication signals.

15 5 The capacitor 5 is connected to a balun and/or isolation transformer 6 which provides a protective coupling for high frequency communication signals. The transformer 6 is in turn connected to a connector 7 which may, in use, 20 be connected to a signal source (not shown).

25 10 As is explained above, such a coupler may be used to couple to an unused primary winding terminal (e.g. H1b in figure 4) of a pad mount transformer.

30 35 40 45 50 Figure 2 shows a coupler according to a second embodiment of the present invention. The coupler includes a pin 20 which, as for the embodiment of figure 1, is dimensioned so as to fit into a standard high voltage socket of e.g. a pad mount transformer as shown in figure 4. The pin 20 is again connected to a fuse 21, capacitor 22, 20 balun/isolation transformer 23 and connected 24 in the same way as the embodiment of figure 1. However, the difference lies in the inclusion of a pin socket 25 which is electrically connected to pin 20 and is in line with pin 20 in the upper arm of the "T" shaped coupler 25 package. Socket 25 is dimensioned so as to receive a pin

55

5

9

10
10

(which will be similar dimensions to pin 20) from a standard low voltage coupler such as that shown in figure 6.

15

5 In this way, a prior art coupler such as shown in figure 6 can be "piggy-backed" onto the coupler of figure 2 which in turn is connected to a socket of a transformer.

20

25

This permits the coupler of figure 2 to be connected to transformers such as that shown in figure 4 where both terminals H1a and H1b are already in use.

30

35

40

A schematic diagram of the electrical circuit of the couplers of figures 1 and 2 is shown in figure 3. A fuse link 30 is shown connected respectively to a transformer bus bar 31 and a capacitor 32. As before, the capacitor 32 is connected to a balun and/or isolation transformer (or other suitable transformer) 33, one winding of which is connected to a signal source 34. The secondary winding of the balun transformer terminates in a suitable high frequency connector (e.g. a BNC connector) and a safety earth bonding strap 35 is also provided.

45

50

Figure 4 illustrates a pad mount transformer as utilised in a typical North American underground power

55

5

10

10

distribution network. The transformer includes primary winding terminals H1a and H1b and also secondary winding terminals X1, X2 and X3. A medium voltage high frequency coupler (such as the embodiment of figure 1) 40 is connected to terminal H1b and from the coupler 40 a connection 42 may be made to high frequency communication signal apparatus. Also shown are a number of earth connections 44 for the various couplers and also for the secondary winding socket X2.

15

20

10

Figure 5 is a schematic diagram of a transformer bypass which could be used with, for example, the transformer of figure 4. A "T" shaped connector 50, such as that of the embodiment of figure 2, is "piggy-backed" with a normal low voltage connector 52 and both of these are connected to a primary winding terminal H1a. Communication signals may be propagated along the cable or conductor 51 as has been described in previous published patent applications by the present applicant.

30

35

40

20

The communication signals may be removed from cable 51 using coupler 50 and then passed through an optional amplifier or signal regenerator 53. The signals can then be passed to a low voltage coupler 54 which in turn connects the signals to one or more of the secondary

45

50

55

5

11

winding terminals X1, X2 and X3. The signals are then
propagated on the low voltage network (LV).

10

As will be appreciated, the above embodiments are given
15 by way of example only and modifications will be apparent
to those skilled in the art.

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

Claims

5

10

15

20

25

30

35

40

45

50

55

5

12

CLAIMS

10

1. A coupler including a pin for electrical connection to a socket, the pin being adapted or arranged so as to 5 be suitable for connection to a socket of a transformer, high pass filter means electrically connected to the pin and connection means for connecting the high pass filter means to a signal source.

20

10

2. A coupler according to claim 1 including a second socket electrically connected to the pin and being adapted for receipt of a second pin of a further connector.

30

25

3. A coupler according to claim 1 or claim 2 arranged in a standard "elbow" or "T" shaped configuration.

35

40

4. A coupler according to any of the above claims including a fuse located between the high pass filter 20 means and the pin.

45

5. A coupler according to any one of the above claims wherein the high pass filter means includes a capacitor.

50

25 6. A coupler according to any one of the above claims

55

5

13

including a protective balun and/or isolation
transformer.

10

7. A method of coupling a communication signal to an
15 electricity network and/or bypassing a transformer of the
network using the apparatus of any of the above claims.

20

8. A method according to claim 7 in which the high
frequency communication signal coupling is made to
10 the primary winding of the transformer without any
25 interruption in the operation of the transformer or the
power supply to consumers.

30

9. A method according to claim 7 or claim 8 wherein, if
15 a number of transformers are connected in a ring one of
the connectors is disconnected.

35

40

45

50

55

1/3

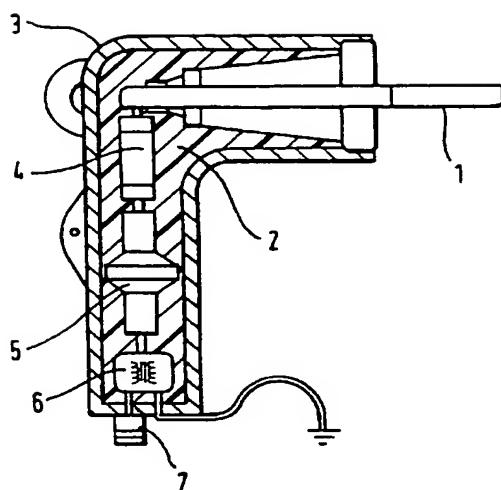


FIG.1.

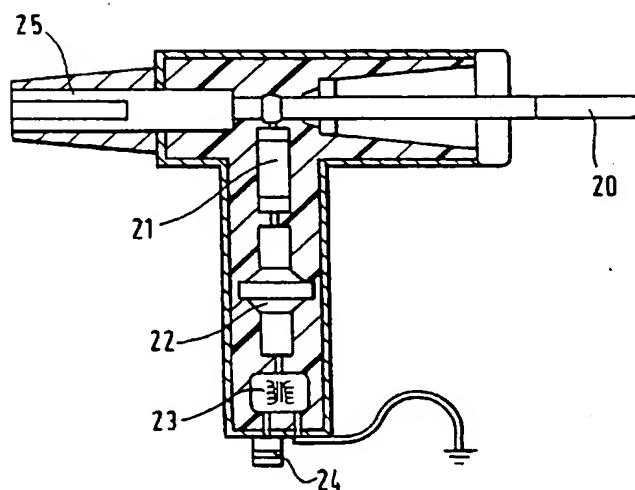


FIG.2.

2/3

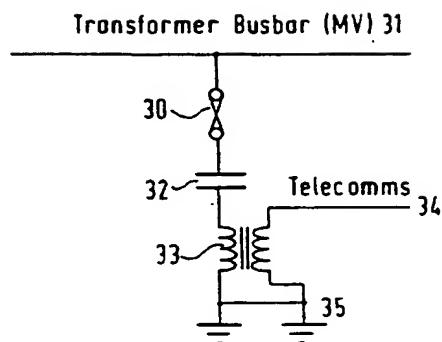


FIG.3.

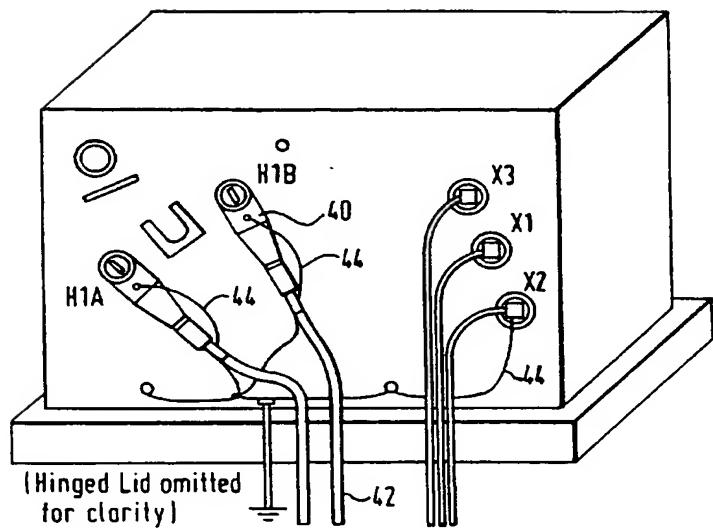


FIG.4.

3 / 3

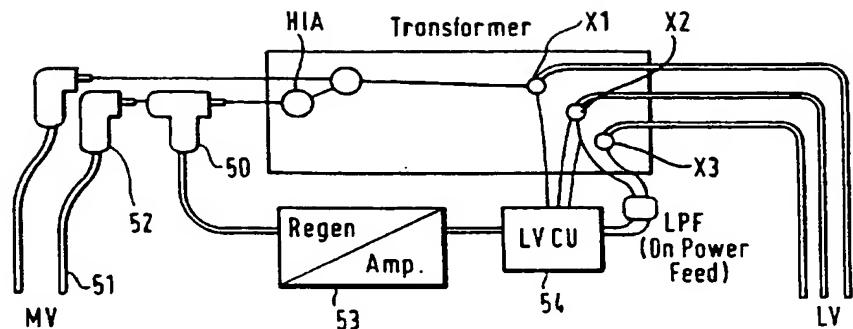


Fig.5.

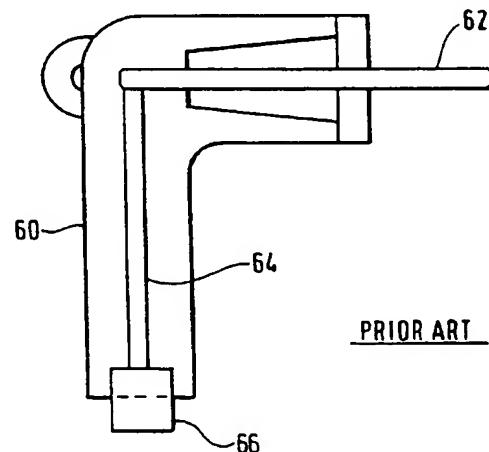


Fig.6.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l. Application No
PCT/GB 00/01146

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 HO1R13/53 HO1R13/66

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 HO1R

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 192 231 A (DOLIN, JR.) 9 March 1993 (1993-03-09) column 2, line 67 -column 3, line 45; figures 1-3	1,7
A	US 4 904 932 A (SCHWEITZER, JR.) 27 February 1990 (1990-02-27) column 4, line 10 -column 5, line 6; figure 1	1,7
A	WO 96 32763 A (LAVERICK, ROBERT) 17 October 1996 (1996-10-17)	



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

Y document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

8 document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

9 June 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

19/06/2000

Name and mailing address of the ISA
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentdaan 2
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl.
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Waern, G

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Intern	Int'l Application No
PCT/GB 00/01146	

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 5192231	A	09-03-1993	US 5187865 A		23-02-1993
US 4904932	A	27-02-1990	CA 1291213 A		22-10-1991
WO 9632763	A	17-10-1996	CA 2217894 A DE 69604656 D DE 69604656 T EP 0820649 A GB 2299900 A		17-10-1996 18-11-1999 31-05-2000 28-01-1998 16-10-1996